

Joseph Sturge & his wife Walmesley Sept. 1852
French people under h. Republ. or

Sept 16th Paris.

1852

Dear Mr. Otter,

I hasten to take the opportunity offered by the return of our friends the Lowells to England, to thank you you most heartily for two kind letters received from you since my last note to you - one before our journey to Switzerland, the other by the Hills, whom we were very glad to see. They brought us the pamphlets which we were extremely glad to see also. Caroline had already written to us of all the satisfaction she had had

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in seeing you - of the forthcoming
"Advocate" and of the great
encouragement she saw from it
for the cause. Indeed the general
aspect of the cause seems to me
more encouraging than the world
over. The friends are not only
strengthened, but the foes are weaker
& the nondescripts in a less dan-
gerous form. Genl Smith has formally
merged the Liberty Party in Free Soil-
ism - which is the natural form
of imperfect devotion & wavering
convictions. Lewis Tappan is passed
over unnoticed by free soil, & can
only manifest his existence by
buzzing like a passing bumble
bee, round the chariot of Party.
to make people think it is "all

along of him" that it is in motion. I have just received a letter from Charles F. Hovey, a very intimate & devoted friend of the cause who is now travelling in Switzerland who tells me he met there Sir Joshua Malinsley, & had much conversation with him. Sir Joshua enquired if he could tell him how it was that such a cloud seemed to rest over Joseph Sturge in regard to the Anti Slavery cause. Hovey replied that to the best of his belief & knowledge Sturge had greatly injured the cause in America by proclaiming both its enemies & column-making the friends, & referred him to me for the particulars. Sir Joshua said he had already had some conversations with me, & had in consequence written to

Strange for an explanation
but had received no answer.
Now, may I beg of you the
favor to enclose to Dr Joshua
Lineny's letter from Street, as
giving a picture of Sturge's char-
acter, & exhibiting therefore his
Moral complicity in their
surrounding transactions, it
may help Dr Joshua to understand
why he received no answer from
Sturge. We have just received a
copy of Victor Hugo's book. It
is a wonderful display of
Genius & Moral Energy, as
well as historical wealth. I
think he exaggerates a little the
Strength of the resistance. There were
not a thousand stands of arms at
the very intromission of the dispersion
of the friends of right, as I am

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told by the very young men
who fought through two days &
nights till their reason and might
failed with sleeplessness & exhaust-
ion & extreme toil. "We could
not get arms - that was the
difficulty & the only difficulty."
Still, it must be acknowledged
that they who are personally
engaged can better judge of the
extent of resistance than any
others, and I am quite ready
to yield the opinion I had
formerly formed. According to V. Hugo's
statement, there was more resistance
than I had thought, but not
more butchery & outrage. It
seems strange to read so soon,
as history, the very facts which
took place under our own
eyes, & the very hon. nob. we
helped to make. But there
are hundreds of thousands in

Paris & millions in France
to whom it will all be
news, so completely has all cir-
culation of thought & news
been cut off, since the Coup d'état
for "doctrine, for approval, for correc-
tion, for instruction in rightness"
this work of V Hugo's is admirable.
Louis Napoleon is between the
hammer & the anvil, beneath
a ^{stone} hail of blows, most of which
hit him square. I think it is
doing God service to smuggle
this book into France. It is
sad that 8000 copies are already
in circulation in Paris, & 20.000
in the provinces. But like the
loaves & fishes of old, "what are
they among so many. If
it could be publicly circulated in
sufficient quantity, there would

be a change here at once.
The French have only to stretch them
slimy & the spell will break.

They enjoy stretching themselves fully
more than any people on
earth - as much as the Czar with
of the Russian popular legend.
"I must tell it you in the
French, because it sounds so much
better so. La légende raconte qu'un
Czar, l'appréciant la fidélité de
son épouse, ordonna de l' enfermer avec
son fils dans un tonneau. Le Monarque
fit ensuite goudronner le tonneau et
jeter à la mer. Durant longues
années le tonneau flottait sur les
vagues. Cependant, le Czar en fit
descendre et commença de se baigner
de ses pieds, à toucher les deux fonds
du tonneau. Le Manque d'espace
le gênait chaque jour davantage.
Un jour il dit à sa Mère: "Sonnez,
ma mère, permettez-moi de m'étendre de
toute la longueur de mes membres."

"Garentek, mon fils," répond la
mère, "prends garde de faire ce
que tu dis; le tonneau creverait, et
tu périrais dans les ondes salées."

Le Garentek se tut pour le moment;
puis, après avoir bien réfléchi, il
répond encore: "Je m'étendrai, ma
mère: mieux vaut s'étendre une fois
librement, et pleur ensuite." So it
is not the least. They are headed
up in any sort of hogshead—
Empire, restoration, charter, what
not. But they do not stay headed
up & hopeless. Caroline must, we
suppose, have arrived yesterday. Our
last letters of the day before were
full of good accounts of my
brother. I envied her the pleasure
of seeing you & many. I
must stop here, if I mean to
have time to write a few words
to many which I greatly desire. But
the letter I begin with is sure to
be the longest, as I forget how time
goes. With most cordial regards yours ever
W.W. Chapman